

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**I. Introduction**

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 19, 2004. Claims 1, 16, 31, and 40 have been amended. Claim 39 was previously canceled. New claims 41 and 42 have been added.

Accordingly, claims 1-38 and 40-42 are now pending.

In the Office Action the Examiner withdrew the finality of the previous action, for which Applicants thank the Examiner.

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 31 has been amended in accordance with Examiner's specific objections in order to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,018,568 to Furman et al. (hereinafter "the Furman et al. patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,149 to Hanson (hereinafter "the Hanson patent"). Claims 3-8 and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Furman et al. patent in view of the Hanson patent, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,364 to McAllister (hereinafter "the McAllister patent"). Claims 9-15 and 20-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Furman et al. patent combined with the Hanson patent and the McAllister patent in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,462,616 to Beswick (hereinafter "the Beswick patent").

Claim 40 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for this allowability, and claim 40 has been amended accordingly, and is therefore now in condition for allowance.

Applicants will now address and overcome each of the Examiner's rejections after summarizing the invention.

II. Summary of the Invention

The present invention is directed to a speech recognition system that includes advanced subscriber records which include a significant amount of information, e.g., a corporate dialer identifier used to identify a corporate dialer which is to be used when a spoken name does not match any of the names in the subscriber's voice dialing record. The subscriber record may also include multiple names corresponding to a set of phone numbers, a set of multiple phone numbers corresponding to a name and phone number identifiers, e.g., location identifiers, which are used in combination with a name to uniquely identify a phone number to be dialed.

By including a corporate dialer identifier in the subscriber record, and using the identified dialer when a spoken name is not matched to a name in the subscriber's voice dialing record, a hierarchal voice dialing system is provided where a subscriber's personal voice dialing record will supersede that of a corporate dialer but the corporate dialer will be consulted in cases where a name does not match the subscriber's personal voice dialing record. Further, the corporate dialer identifier can be selected or changed by the subscriber. Therefore, one subscriber's corporate dialer can be different from another's corporate dialer. To implement this capability, the corporate dialer identifier is placed within the subscriber's personal voice dialing record. These features are particularly beneficial for individuals who normally rely on a corporate voice dialer but would like to add additional names to the voice dialing system which are personal to the particular subscriber.

The advanced subscriber voice dialing records which include a corporate voice dialer identifier and the hierarchical voice dialing technique which uses a corporate voice dialer identifier stored in a subscriber's voice dialing record are not taught, disclosed, or suggested by the applied references. As a matter of fact, because the references teach the use of a "standard"

directory assistance call if a name is not recognized, they teach away from Applicants' personal corporate dialer identifier.

III. Objections

The Examiner indicated that claim 40 was directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter

Claim 40 which recited:

The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting a subscriber corresponding to said at least one of said voice dialing subscriber records with an opportunity to modify said stored corporate dialer identifier over the Internet.

Claim 40 has been re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 40 is therefore in condition for allowance.

IV. The Rejection of Claims 1-2, 3-8, 9-15 and 20-38, 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Based on the Hanson Patent

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,018,568 to Furman et al. (hereinafter "the Furman et al. patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,149 to Hanson (hereinafter "the Hanson patent"). Claims 3-8 and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Furman et al. patent in view of the Hanson patent, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,364 to McAllister (hereinafter "the McAllister patent"). Claims 9-15 and 20-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Furman et al. patent combined with the Hanson patent and the McAllister patent in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,462,616 to Beswick (hereinafter "the Beswick patent").

Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended, keeping in mind the Examiner's indication that claim 40 included allowable subject matter, to more particularly point out one of the distinctions between Applicants' invention and the cited references. The claims as amended recite features which provide a subscriber the ability to *modify* a stored corporate dialer identifier.

The prior art does not teach, disclose or suggest allowing a user to modify a stored directory assistance identifier, let alone a corporate dialer identifier. Furthermore, there is no teaching, suggestion, or reason in the cited references to provide such functionality. Thus, the amendments clearly differentiate claims 1 and 16, and the claims dependent on them, from the cited references.

The applied references do not anticipate or render obvious these claims for several additional reasons as well. The manner by which the voice directory assistance service is utilized in the Hanson patent, following the inability of the system to recognize a name in the personal directory, teaches away from using a corporate dialer identifier stored in the voice dialing subscriber records recited in claim 1 and various other claims. For example, in col. 4, lines 16-24, the Hanson patent states:

If directory assistance is requested, system 1-7 causes switching center 104 to set up a call from system 107 to directory-assistance system 106, a step 230. System 107 is either pre-programmed with the telephone number of directory-assistance system 106 and provides this number to switching center 104, or merely commands switching center 104 to connect to directory assistance and leaves it up to switching center 104 to determine how to reach directory assistance [emphasis added].

As can be seen above, even if one could equate a directory assistance system with a corporate dialer, which Applicants have previously argued is not the case, there is no suggestion of enabling the user to specify a particular directory

system to use. What is taught is a "standard" directory assistance system (which the switch could determine on its own how to reach). Therefore, there would be no reason to include such an identifier in the user's personal subscriber record.

The Furman et al. patent also discloses a method of contacting a directory assistance bureau to help obtain the phone number of a name which has not been identified in the subscriber's personal directory. There would be no reason in such a system to store the directory assistance contact identifier in the subscriber's record. As a matter of fact, doing so would be counter-productive, as this would entail multiple copies of the same information in numerous records, for no apparent reason. Therefore, the Furman et al. and Hanson patents **teach away from applicants' storage of the corporate dialer identifier in the subscriber's voice dialing record.** The various cited combination of references used to reject the claims do not in any way render obvious the pending claims.

As was discussed above, various embodiments of the invention are directed to, e.g., voice dialing systems, where a data storage device is used to store voice dialing subscriber records. In accordance with the invention, at least one of the voice dialing subscriber records includes a plurality of names, a telephone number being associated with each of said names, and **a corporate dialer identifier which identifies a corporate dialer to be used in the event that a name included in the subscriber's record is not detected in speech received in regard to a voice dialing call.** As amended, claims 1-30 and newly added claims 41-42 also cite the ability of the subscriber to modify the corporate dialer identifier in these records, further differentiating these claims from the cited references.

Representative Claim 1 (as amended) is patentable because it recites:

A voice dialing system for use with the Internet, the system comprising:

a data storage device for storing voice dialing subscriber records, at least one of said voice dialing subscriber records

including a plurality of names, a telephone number being associated with each of said names, and a corporate dialer identifier which identifies a corporate dialer to be used in the event that a name included in the subscriber's record is not detected in speech received in regard to a voice dialing call;

a first computer system for coupling a voice dialing subscriber to the Internet;

a second computer system coupled to the Internet, the second computer system including means for updating a voice dialing subscriber record in response to voice dialing information received from the subscriber via the Internet;

a telephone switch;

means for generating a telephone number corresponding to speech coupled to the telephone switch, the second computer system, and the data storage device; and

means for presenting a subscriber corresponding to said at least one of said voice dialing subscriber records with an opportunity to modify said corporate dialer identifier.

The other references applied by the Examiner do not show, teach or discuss the use of the claimed corporate dialer identifier *stored in the subscriber's voice dialing record*.

In view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the pending claims based on the Hanson patent and the other cited references should be withdrawn for the multiple reasons discussed above.

V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 31 has been amended to be directed to statutory subject matter, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. **Claim 31 is therefore now in condition for allowance.**

VI. New claims

New claims 41 and 42 have been added, and are dependent on claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 41 and 42 are in condition for allowance for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable but also because of the various features recited in these claims.

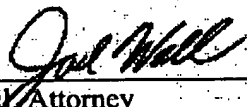
VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

If there are any outstanding issues which need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants undersigned representative by phone to discuss and hopefully resolve said issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged to Patent Office deposit account number 07-2347.

Respectfully submitted,

August 19, 2004



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